

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
23 An axle assembly serves as a primary structural member for a motor vehicle
4 and comprises an axle tube having a first end and a second end and with an
5 opening located near the first end and a mounting module formed as a unitary
6 extension of the axle tube. At least one steel insert is positioned near the first end,
7 and the steel insert is adapted to be welded to a differential carrier to secure the axle
8 tube to the differential carrier. The axle assembly may also have an axle tube
9 formed unitary with the differential carrier.

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